

FEB 1952 34-4884

CLASSIFICATION

25X1

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR (Ukrainian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 6 Feb. 1953

SUBJECT Operation of the Katerinopolskiy
Machine-Tractor Station

NO. OF PAGES 3

DATE OF
1 INFO.NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

**1st PLACE
ACQUIRED**

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, SECTIONS 793 AND 794, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION OR REVELATION OF ITS CONTENTS TO OR RECEIPT BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

1. The Katerinopolskiy Machine-Tractor Station (Mashino-Traktornaya Stantsiya, MTS), located at Katerinopol (4875N, 3056E), serviced 25 kolkhozy in Katerinopolskiy Rayon, including the Kolkhoz imeni Stalina [] kolkhoz was about five km from the MTS, but some kolkhozy serviced by the MTS were as far as 25 km distant. There were 125 tractors and 25 combines at this MTS; [] the MTS had only tractors and combines, other smaller equipment being found on the kolkhozy. Each kolkhoz had three to five tractors made available to it by the MTS, except the Kolkhoz imeni Stalina, which had the most--six or seven. There were about 250 tractor operators and 25 combine operators, all of whom were members of the various kolkhozy and not assigned to the MTS. At the beginning of each farming season, the tractors were brought to the kolkhoz, where they remained as long as needed. The tractor operators stayed with their machines during the farming season, and accompanied the tractors to the MTS in the fall, where they spent the winter overhauling and repairing them. During the winter the tractor operators lived at home on their kolkhozy and reported to the MTS daily to work on their machines.

2. There were 15-20 people in the MTS, including the director, a chief mechanic, five junior mechanics (one junior mechanic for five kolkhozy), two machinists, who made parts, a Party Organizer (Partiynnyy Organizator).

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

[illegible]

SECRET

-2-

and a bookkeeper. [] the director was selected by the Party Raykom, but the other members of the MTS were hired by the director. The chief mechanic had the over-all responsibility of seeing that the tractors were kept in operating condition. Each of the five mechanics, who were subordinate to the chief mechanic, was responsible for the machines on the five kolkhozy assigned to him. During the winter the Party Organizer conducted three two-hour sessions in political indoctrination each week. His talks usually consisted of exhortations for greater efforts [], glowing tributes to the progress made by the Soviet Union, the role of the Party in effecting this progress, and, especially after 1947, condemnation of the US as a warmongering nation. These talks were a source of annoyance and boredom to the MTS personnel, who paid little attention to them. [] no MVD representative at the MTS or at any of the kolkhozy.

3. The Kolkhoz imeni Stalina always received the tractors from the MTS in March or, depending on the weather, as early as February. []

[] There were seven tractors, and two operators for each tractor. Besides the 14 tractor operators, of whom two or three were girls, the brigade also had a brigade leader, an assistant brigade leader, a keeper of records, a supplier of kerosene, and two others whose functions []. The tractors were kept on the kolkhoz until late fall, sometimes as late as November; they were returned to the MTS from the fields only if there was a serious breakdown which the tractor operators or an MTS mechanic could not fix on the spot. Each operator was responsible for any maintenance or repairs needed during the time he was driving the tractor. Unless poor weather prevented operation, the tractors were kept in constant use. Whenever possible, especially during plowing time, the tractors were operated day and night. The two operators assigned to a tractor alternated in 24-hour shifts each. Rest periods during working hours were provided only for the three daily meals, which were prepared in the field for the workers by women assigned to that job. The tractor did most of the work on the kolkhoz; the kolkhoz had about 40 horses, as compared to 80 before the war. [] the amount of work performed by machines, horses, and hand is roughly: plowing, 70 per cent by machines and 30 per cent by animals; sowing, 30 per cent by machines, 50 per cent by animals, and 20 per cent by hand; harvesting, 50 per cent by machines and animals, and 50 per cent by hand.

4. Practically all the tractors at the MTS were prewar KhTZ and Universal II models, which used kerosene, [] how old they were; there were also some prewar KhTZ and Stalinets models, which used oil, but [] how long they had been in use. After the war [] received two kerosene-burning Nattyks which were converted from some kind of army vehicle. [] In February 1949, the MTS had received no new tractors and no additional models, old or new, were expected. On the average, the KhTZ consumed 120 kg(sic) of kerosene during 24 hours of continuous operation; and the Universal II, 140 kg of kerosene for the same period of time. Inasmuch as these were the only tractors [] the amount of fuel consumption for the other models. Kerosene was issued each month according to the MTS's plan for fuel consumption. Tractor operators were expected to have their monthly fuel allotment last the entire period; if they used the fuel too rapidly their machines stood idle, which meant a decrease in their earnings. This never happened [] because the fuel ration always seemed to be just adequate for a month of operation. This did not apply to combine operators, who had no such restrictions on fuel. During the winter all the machines underwent a complete overhaul, an operation which occupied the two operators assigned to each machine for the entire season. During the winter the machines were kept in large garages, where they were worked on. The most frequent difficulty encountered in the fields was the splitting of the porcelain on the sparkplugs. Bearings burned out occasionally, but this was due to negligence, rather than to poor-quality bearings. Work stoppages occurred at times due to dirt which got into the magnetos. [] any serious breakdown which necessitated the removal of tractors from the fields for more than a day

SECRET

SECRET

25X1

-3-

or so. Although the MTS's reserve of spare parts was always quite meager, the MTS's machinists somehow managed to produce most of the parts needed. At no time were there any crankshafts or cylinder blocks available and, should a need have arisen for either of these, the machine needing them would have had to stand idle indefinitely.

- 25X1 5. Tractor and combine operators had norms to fulfill for different types of work. [] know any of the norms for combine operators. The plowing norm for tractor operators was three hectares of land in a 24-hour period; for plowing three hectares in a 24-hour period, a tractor operator earned three workdays. The norm for reaping was $4\frac{1}{2}$ hectares during a day's work, not for 24 hours, for which the tractor operator earned two workdays. Should an operator exceed the norms, he would receive a proportionate increase in earned workdays; if he failed to fulfill his daily norm, he would be credited with proportionately fewer workdays. These are the only norms [] Tractor operators earned an average of 800-850 workdays a year; they received three kg of grain, but no money, per workday. Combine operators received a little more grain per workday than tractor operators, plus some money. In addition to these payments, all tractor and combine operators received three rubles for every liter of fuel they managed to conserve out of the amount allotted them. Unlike kolkhoz workers, whose payment in grain for the workdays earned depended on the harvest, tractor and combine operators were assured of payment regardless of the harvest. Tractor and combine operators were paid by the kolkhoz or kolkhozy on which they worked during the year. [] the MTS received any grain from the kolkhozy which it serviced.

25X1

SECRET